



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

# NEWS RELEASE

## San Diego Police Department

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
January 13, 2012

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### **“INCENSE BANDIT” WANTED IN COMMERCIAL ROBBERY SERIES**

**(San Diego)** San Diego Police Department Robbery Unit detectives are investigating a series of recent commercial robberies that occurred in North Park and Hillcrest.

On December 16, 2011, at about 7:15 p.m., a male entered the Lady of the Lake bookstore, located at 3100 University Avenue, through an unlocked rear door. The clerk recognized him as a previous customer and told him the business was closed. The suspect announced he was robbing the store and displayed a small handgun. The suspect ordered the clerk to open the safe and give him the cash from inside. The clerk complied and the suspect left.

On January 6, 2012, at about 4:40 p.m., the suspect entered the 76 Gas station located at 3700 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and asked to use the restroom. The clerk directed him to the back of the store. The suspect returned a few minutes later and gave the clerk a note demanding money, while simulating a weapon under his shirt. The clerk gave the suspect money and the suspect left.

On January 7, 2012, at about 7:20 p.m., the suspect entered the Cathedral Candle shop at 400 University Avenue and browsed through the store. The clerk asked if she could help him and the suspect asked about purchasing some incense. The suspect reached under his shirt, as if he was taking a gun from his waistband. He pushed the clerk toward the cash register, told her to give him money and she complied. He asked about a safe but the business didn't have one.

The suspect is described as a black male, 38 to 45 years of age, 6'0" to 6'5" tall with a medium to muscular build. He is described as having short hair in 1 case and a bald head in the other 2 cases. He was also described as having a mustache, and possibly a goatee. He has been armed with a small revolver or simulated a weapon during the robberies.

One of the robberies was captured on surveillance video. Copies of the video are available at the San Diego Police Department Headquarters Broadway customer service counter.

Anyone with information concerning this series or this suspect is asked to contact the San Diego Police Department's Robbery Unit at (619) 531-2299 or San Diego County Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477.

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